

RIVER STAGES AND FLOODS FOR MAY 1947

C. R. JORDAN

Precipitation during May was below normal from Wisconsin and Iowa westward to the Pacific Coast, and in northern California. It was also drier than usual in eastern Tennessee and along the south Atlantic Coast. Elsewhere, precipitation was generally above normal, with the greatest departures from normal in western Colorado and eastern Utah.

Near-record floods occurred in Arkansas and Oklahoma; light overflow occurred in the Wabash Basin and a few other tributaries of the Ohio River, as well as in the extreme lower Ohio; and unusually early flood peaks were reached in the upper Columbia River Basin. Elsewhere only light overflow at scattered stations was reported, as shown in the table at the end of this report.

Ohio Basin.—Light to moderate flood stages occurred on the Scioto, Green, West Fork, White, and Wabash Rivers. The Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam and the extreme lower Ohio River also overflowed lightly. Most of this overflow was carried over from April floods, augmented in some streams by additional rain during the first few days of May. Overflow was not extensive and little damage resulted.

Arkansas and Red Basins.—Heavy rains during the month, following an unusually wet April, produced floods in portions of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Near-record stages were reached at some stations in the Red River Basin in southwestern Oklahoma. Highstream flow was maintained throughout the month. Moderate flooding occurred on the Cimarron, North Canadian, Canadian, and Poteau Rivers; and on the Arkansas River, from Webbers Falls, Okla., to Dardanelle, Ark. Bridge embankments on the lower Canadian River near Whitefield, Okla., were washed out, causing considerable loss. The U. S. Geological Survey reports that the peak stage of the Washita River near Tabler, Okla., was 29.1 feet on May 16, as compared with the maximum known stage of 30.6 feet in April 1927. Cache Creek and the Elm Fork of North Fork Red River also reached near-maximum stages of record. The Little and Sulphur Rivers in Texas reached moderate flood stages on two occasions during the month, and the Red River at Fulton, Ark., exceeded flood stage slightly.

Columbia Basin.—An early and rapid snow melt in the upper Columbia River Basin caused seasonal peaks to be reached early in May. Stages were generally below the highest stages of record, but flood stages were exceeded somewhat in the Kootenai, Flathead, Clark Fork, Clearwater, Willamette, and the Columbia Rivers. Some damage was done by the Kootenai River in the Bonners Ferry area but damage for the most part was confined to the overflow of crop and pasture lands in lowlands along the streams.

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR MAY 1947

[All dates in May unless otherwise specified]

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages— dates		Crest 1	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
ST. LAWRENCE DRAINAGE					
Lake Erie					
	Feet			Feet	
St. Marys: Decatur, Ind.....	13	{ Apr. 30	5	16.3	3
		25	26	13.5	26
		19	19	10.0	19
St. Joseph: Montpelier, Ohio.....	10	{ 22	23	10.5	23
		25	25	10.0	25
ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
Kennebec: Augusta, Maine.....	13	7	10	14.5	9
Connecticut: Hartford, Conn.....	16	7	7	16.0	7
Toughnioga: Whitney Point, N. Y.....	12	22	26	12.7	26
Chenango: Sherburne, N. Y.....	8	26	26	8.7	26
Chemung:					
Elmira, N. Y.....	12	22	22	12.3	22
Chemung, N. Y.....	12	22	22	14.6	22
Susquehanna: Onconta, N. Y.....	12	7	10	13.9	8
EAST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE					
Apalachicola: Blountstown, Fla.....	15	{ 4	9	16.6	6
		25	(¹)	16.3	31
Tombigbee:					
Lock No. 3.....	33	Apr. 12	5	53.3	Apr. 21
Lock No. 1.....	31	Apr. 14	5	34.9	3
				37.2	Apr. 24
Pearl:					
Jackson, Miss.....	18	Apr. 10	1	29.1	Apr. 21
Pearl River, La.....	12	{ Apr. 1	9	16.0	Apr. 16
		28	30	13.0	29
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM					
Upper Mississippi Basin					
Mississippi: Cape Girardeau, Mo.....	82	Apr. 11	7	38.7	Apr. 30— May 1
Missouri Basin					
Solomon: Beloit, Kans.....	18	Apr. 30	1	23.4	1
Ohio Basin					
Little Miami: Kings Mills, Ohio.....	17	25	25	18.6	25
Scioto:					
La Rue, Ohio.....	11	{ 1	1	11.3	1
		26	26	11.7	26
Circleville, Ohio.....	14	27	27	15.6	27
Piketon, Ohio.....	15	{ 3	4	15.3	3
		27	28	16.6	28
Rough: Dundee, Ky.....	25	26	30	26.8	27
Green:					
Munfordville, Ky.....	28	23	23	28.4	23
Lock No. 4, Woodbury, Ky.....	33	23	26	35.2	25
Lock No. 2, Rumsey, Ky.....	34	27	29	34.5	28
West Fork:					
Anderson, Ind.....	10	1	3	10.6	2
Elliston, Ind.....	18	Apr. 26	6	21.6	Apr. 28
				20.9	3
Edwardsport, Ind.....	12	{ Apr. 26	9	19.6	1
		19	27	16.5	21
		30	(¹)	13.3	31
East Fork: Seymour, Ind.....	14	{ 1	4	16.4	2
		18	19	15.7	18
White:					
Petersburg, Ind.....	16	{ Apr. 26	10	21.6	3-4
		21	28	19.1	24-25
Hazleton, Ind.....	16	{ Apr. 9	12	22.5	4
		21	29	19.6	25
Wabash:					
Bluffton, Ind.....	10	3	5	10.6	3
Wabash, Ind.....	12	Apr. 30	4	15.8	Apr. 80

See footnotes at end of table.

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR MAY 1947—Continued

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages— dates		Crest ¹	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—continued					
Ohio Basin—Continued					
Wabash—Continued	<i>Feet</i>			<i>Feet</i>	
Lafayette, Ind.....	11	{ Apr. 30	6	18.0	2
		22	22	11.1	22
Covington, Ind.....	16	{ Apr. 30	7	21.4	3
Terre Haute, Ind.....	14	{ Apr. 26	9	17.8	4
Vincennes, Ind.....	14	{ Apr. 26	12	17.6	7-9
Mt. Carmel, Ill.....	17	{ Apr. 27	13	21.1	6-9
		24	27	17.4	25
New Harmony, Ind.....	15	{ Apr. 30	13	16.7	7-10
Tennessee: Kentucky Dam (LG), Ky..	27	{ 1	10	30.4	6
		26	(²)	29.7	28
Ohio:					
Shawneetown, Ill.....	33	{ 28	30	33.4	28
Dam No. 50, Fords Ferry, Ky.....	34	{ 6	7	34.3	6-7
		27	(²)	35.3	29
Cairo, Ill.....	40	{ Apr. 10	10	47.1	Apr. 20
				45.8	2
White Basin					
White:					
Georgetown, Ark.....	21	{ Apr. 5	6	21.0	5-6
		23	3	26.4	Apr. 25-27
Clarendon, Ark.....	26	{ 7	11	26.0	7-11
		29	(²)	26.0	29-31
St. Charles, Ark.....	25	{ Apr. 26	16	25.4	2, 5-7
Arkansas Basin					
Deep Fork: Dewar, Okla.....	18	{ Apr. 20	6	20.6	22
		14	29	20.1	3
Cimarron: Perkins, Okla.....	11	{ 16	17	21.8	20
North Canadian:				13.5	16
Woodward, Okla.....	5	{ 16	16	5.8	16
		16	17	10.2	17
Canton, Okla.....	9	{ 21	21	9.7	21
		24	24	9.3	24
				13.9	13
Yukon, Okla.....	11			14.8	16
				14.7	19
				14.1	20
Canadian:					
Union City, Okla.....	6	{ 16	16	6.0	16
		13	13	16.9	13
Whitefield, Okla.....	16	{ 17	17	18.1	17
		1	2	24.9	1
Poteau: Poteau, Okla.....	21	{ 13	15	25.5	15
		18	21	25.0	19
Fouche La Faye: Perryville, Ark.....	20	{ Apr. 28	6	26.3	2
		17	(²)	25.0	22
Arkansas:					
Webbers Falls Okla.....	23	{ Apr. 18	19	24.0	Apr. 18
		27	1	25.2	Apr. 30
Fort Smith, Ark.....	22	{ 17	26	25.9	18
				24.0	25
				25.8	Apr. 30
Van Buren, Ark.....	22	{ Apr. 27	2	24.9	Apr. 27, May 1
		18	28	26.7	18
				25.0	25
Dardanelle, Ark.....	22	{ Apr. 29	2	23.9	1
		19	23	25.0	21
		26	27	22.5	26
Red Basin					
Little Missouri: Boughton, Ark.....	20	{ 13	15	21.7	14
Ouachita:					
Arkadelphia, Ark.....	17	{ 1	1	19.0	1
		2	7	28.1	5
Camden, Ark.....	26	{ 17	23	29.4	19
Black: Black Rock, Ark.....	14	{ 1	8	15.8	2

See footnotes at end of table.

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR MAY 1947—Continued

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages— dates		Crest ¹	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—continued					
Red Basin—Continued					
	<i>Feet</i>			<i>Feet</i>	
Clear Boggy: Caney, Okla.....	21	{ 18	19	21.0	18-19
		{ 21	23	22.0	22
Little: White Cliffs, Ark.....	25	{ 2	6	26.4	3-4
		{ 15	23	27.6	16
Sulphur:				27.2	19-20
Hagansport, Tex.....	38	{ 1	4	41.8	1
		{ 17	19	39.7	18
Naples, Tex.....	22	{ 4	11	26.7	5
		{ 20	26	26.7	21
McCartney Bridge, Tex.....	22	{ 9	19	24.0	10-11
		{ 23	(²)	24.7	26
Red: Fulton, Ark.....	25	{ 23	26	25.6	24
Lower Mississippi Basin					
St. Francis:					
Fisk, Mo.....	20	Apr. 26	8	23.1	Apr. 28- May 2
St. Francis, Ark.....	18	Apr. 15	14	20.4	3-5
Yazoo: Yazoo City, Miss.....	29	1	15	31.4	1-4
Mississippi:					
New Madrid, Mo.....	34	Apr. 13	9	37.5	Apr. 20- 21
				36.3	2-4
Caruthersville, Mo.....	32	Apr. 14	9	35.8	Apr. 21- 22
				34.6	3, 4
Atchafalaya Basin					
Atchafalaya:					
Atchafalaya, La.....	25	Apr. 19	(²)	26.5	2-12
Morgan City, La.....	6	21	21	6.2	21
WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE					
East Fork: Rockwall (nr), Tex.....	10	{ 1	3	12.4	3
		{ 8	11	13.8	9
Trinity: Liberty, Tex.....	24	{ 20	27	27.3	23
		{ 9	9	7.0	9
Rio Grande: Espanola, N. Mex.....	7	{ 11	13	7.4	12
GULF OF CALIFORNIA DRAINAGE					
Colorado Basin					
Animas: Durango, Colo.....	4	{ 3	7	5.0	6
		{ 9	10	4.8	10
		{ 22	24	4.0	22-24
		{ 27	27	4.5	27
PACIFIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
Columbia Basin					
Kootenai: Bonners Ferry, Idaho.....	31	11	13	31.3	12
Flathead:					
Polson, Mont.....	15.6	13	21	16.6	15
Somers, Mont.....	93	13	18	93.2	15, 16
Columbia Falls, Mont.....	13.2	4	13	17.6	10
Clark Fork: Missoula, Mont.....	9.5	6	12	11.0	10
Clearwater: Kamiah, Idaho.....	14	4	10	16.1	8
Willamette: Portland, Oreg.....	18	12	14	18.4	12-13
Columbia:					
The Dalles, Oreg.....	40	9	(²)	43.4	12
				42.5	28
				18.7	13
Vancouver, Wash.....	15	10	(²)	18.0	18
				17.5	31

¹ Provisional.² Continued at end of month.